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FEATURING

THE FOUR DOCTORS!

ALSO-DOCTOR & MISTE JEKYLL & HYDE

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A scene from "Day of the Daleks" (1972).





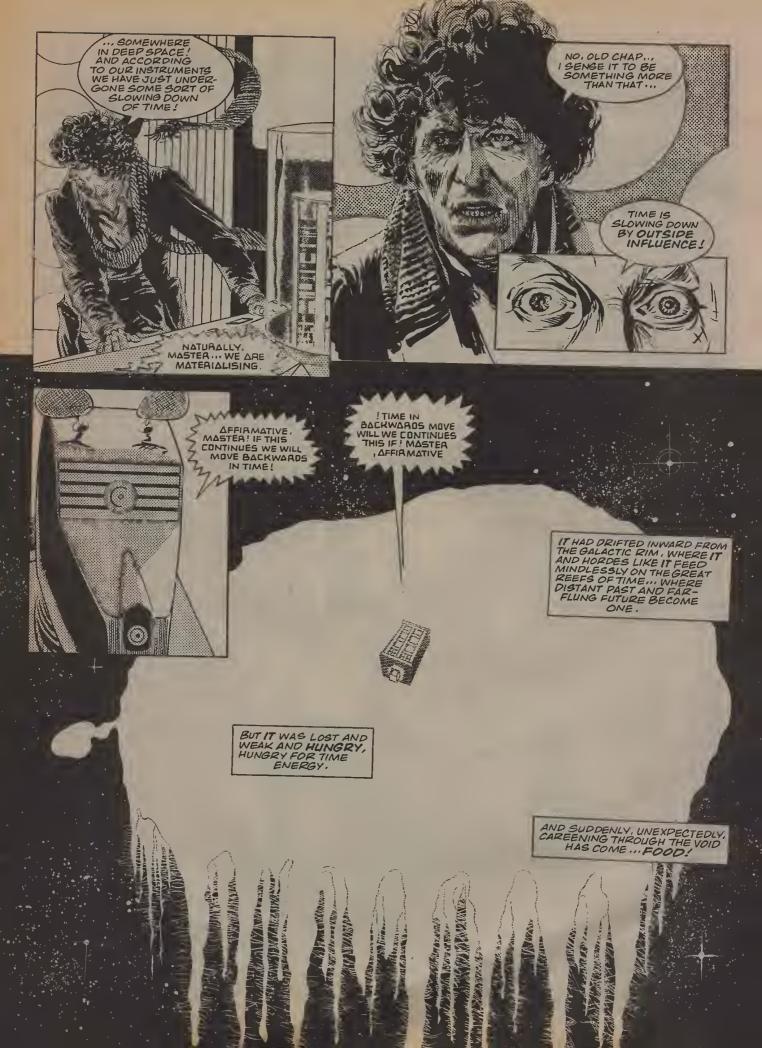








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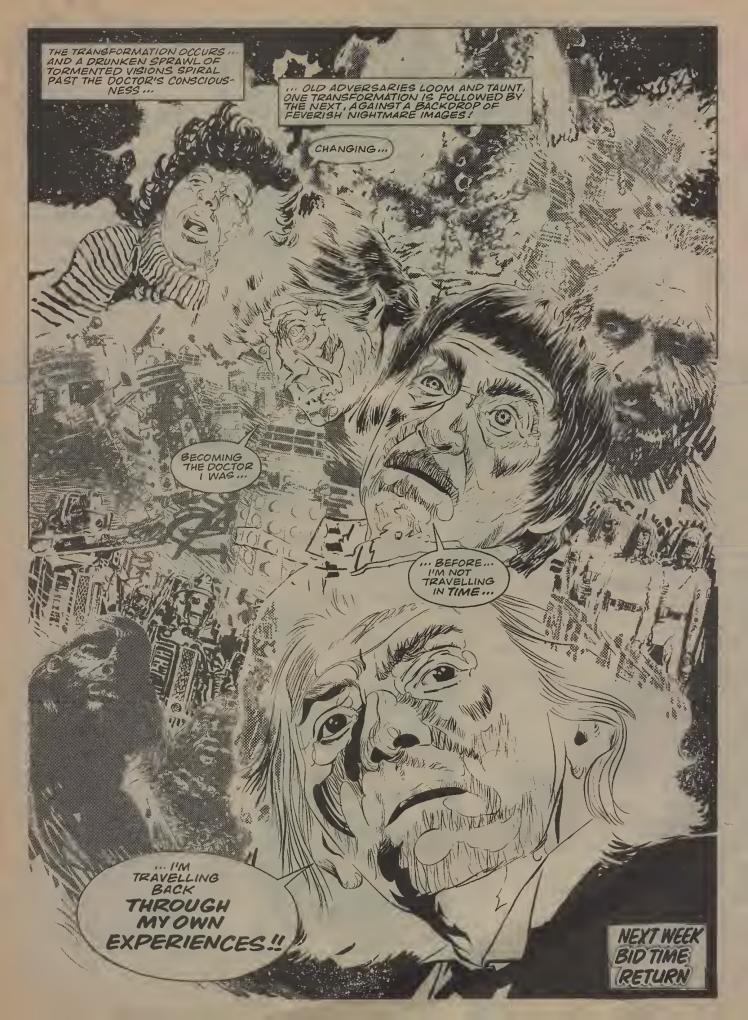












CRAZY CAPTION 17

ere it is! Another one of our candid shots from the Dr Who tv series that just cries out for a caption. Simply send us the funniest line you can, to go with the empty speech balloon (25 words or less), and you could win £5! Send your entries — on postcards only — postmarked no later than February 4th, to us at:

CRAZY CAPTION NUMBER 17, Marvel Comics, Jadwin House, 205-211, Kentish Town Road, London NW5.

This week and every week, we'll be publishing the name of the lucky winner and his/her caption, so keep 'em coming captioneers!



RESULTS OF CRAZY CAPTION NUMBER 11

THE WINNER:

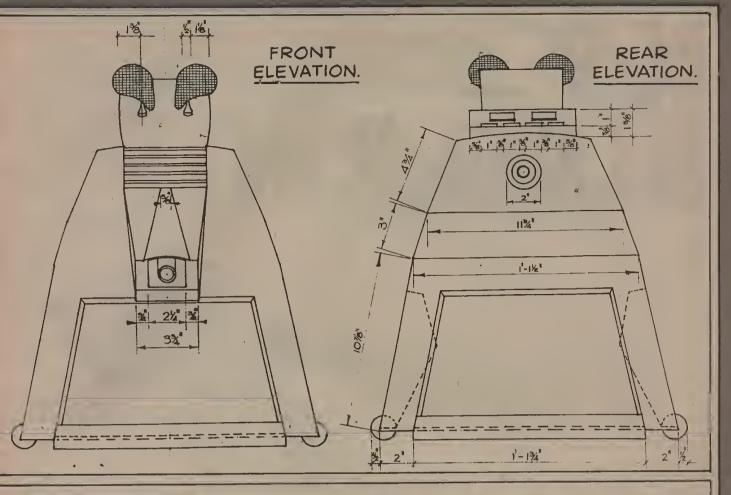
Peter Moore, from Filey, wins £5 for his caption printed right.

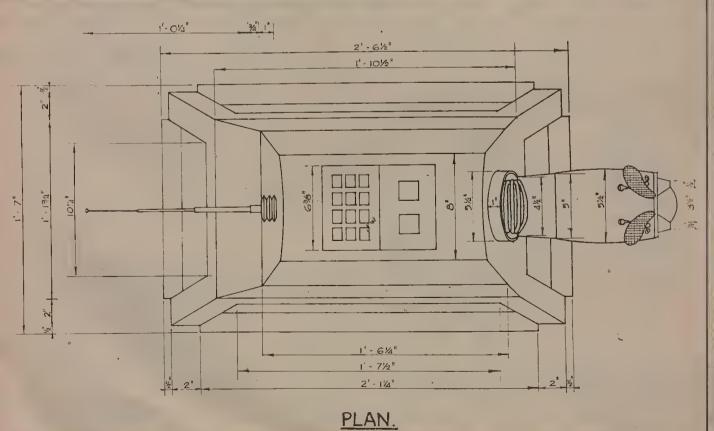
Signed colour photos of Tom Baker as the Doctor, have gone to the ten runners-up:

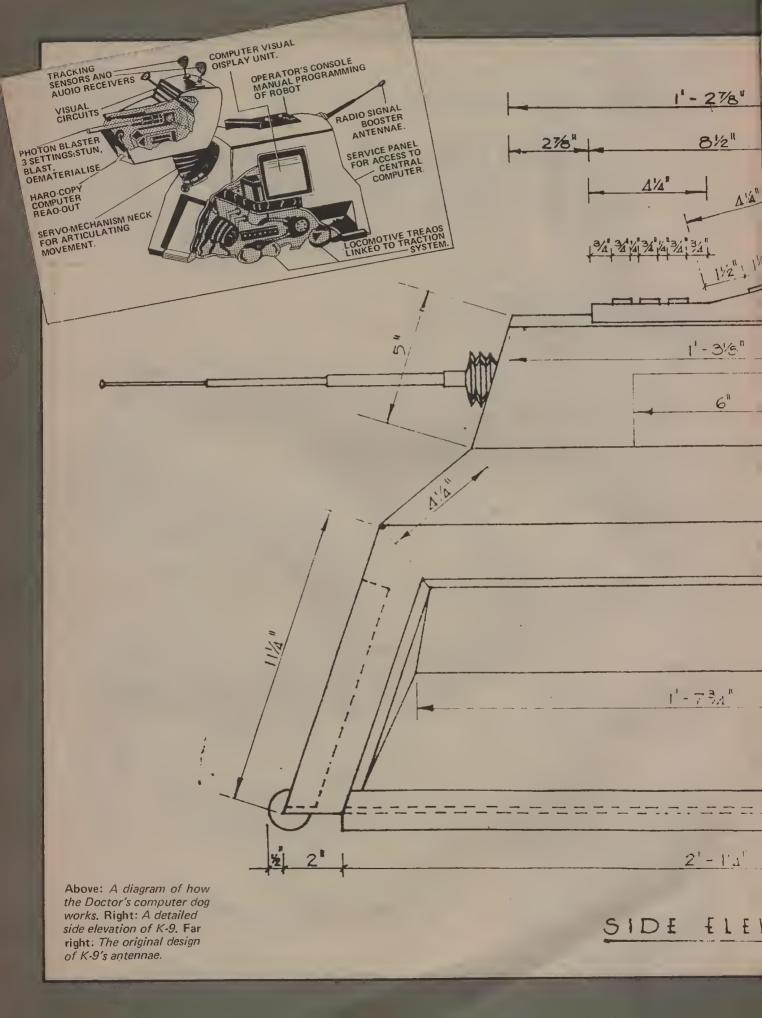
Andrew Goble from Leyton;
Stewart Maclaren from Bexley;
Gary Broad from Northfleet;
Martin East from Wistaston;
Christopher Denyer from Tring;
Kevin Mullins from Leamington Spa;
Robert Watson from Liverpool;
Ian Gardiner from Gloucester;
Simon Green from Manchester;
Naeen Malik from Ilford.

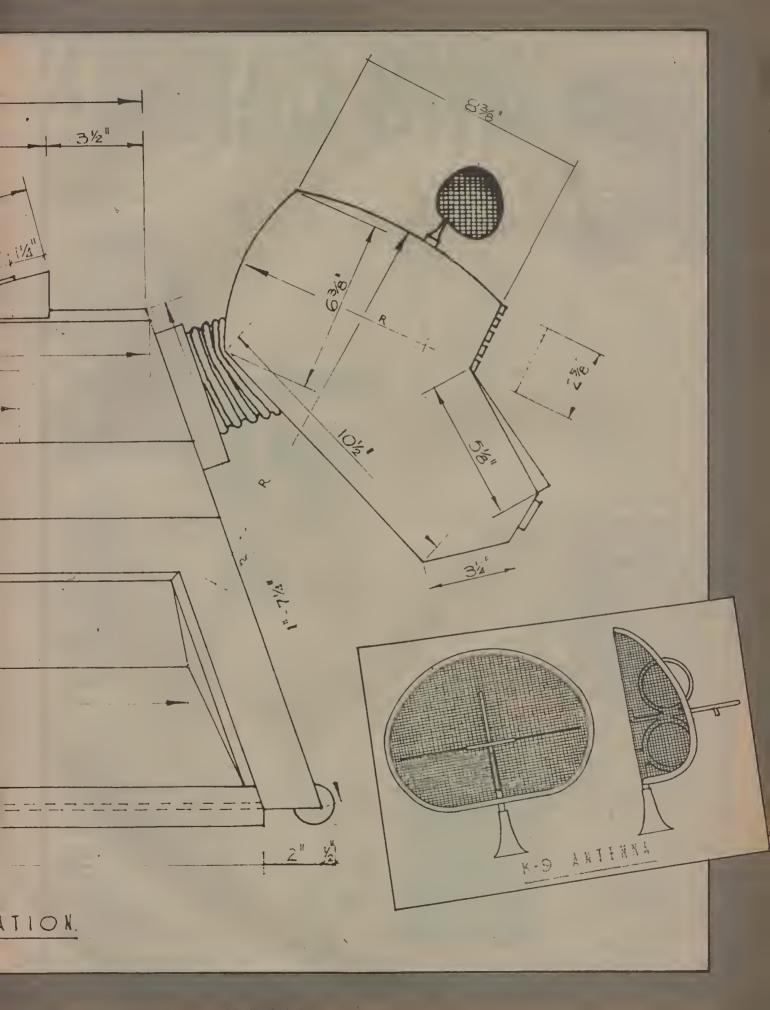












Once more, we have a huge batch of your letters — and photos — to print, so lets get straight into them...

Dear Dr Who Weekly,

I have never collected a comic before now, but Dr Who Weekly caught my eye!

Being a devoted Dr Who book collector, I immediately bought it — it was fantastic!

I have the set of Dr Who books and hope I will never miss a copy of Dr Who Weekly.

S. Saxty, Luton.



Reader Julian Smart from Cambridge.

Dear Doctor,

Thanks a lot for giving me a lot of excitement in your four different incarnations, and congratulations on defeating some of the most terrifying species in the universe.

I've seen you battle with all kinds of monsters, but it's the dreaded Daleks who fascinate me the most. Whether you battle with them on Earth, Exxillion, or Skaro you still produce numerous anxious moments!

I'm a great fan of the series and have over 40 books, as well as magazines and annuals. I'm glad that a weekly Doctor Who comic is now being published and it will hopefully keep me up-to-date with the present scene.

You can count on me as a regular reader.

D. Crouch, Wolverhampton.

Dear Dr Who Weekly,

As a long time Dr Who fanatic, I was delighted to see your publication. While enjoying the comic strips, what really impressed me was your articles, particularly your series on the television stories.

This is already bringing back many memories of long forgotten story-lines and filling in details of only sketchily remembered plots. I hope you will carry on with this series right up until the present day so that eventually we will have a complete record of every story of the intrepid Doctor and his many companions.

Peter Salmi, Cardiff.



Reader Sarrabjit Bathel from Warwick.

Dear All,

! think just one word sums up this new magazine, — FANTASTIC! This has got to be the best science fiction magazine of all time in the U.K.

I was so impressed when I read the first issue that I went to see my local newsagent immediately and paid in advance for another twenty issues to make sure I get my copy each week.

Gary Catchpole, Great Yarmouth.



Reader Jeremy Fry from Sheffield.

Dear Dr Who Weekly,

I was a little dubious when I first heard of your plans to release a Dr Who Weekly. Would it do justice to the superb television series? Would it place too much emphasis on the current Dr Who and show a disregard for the series' history?

It seems my original fears were ungrounded. Owing to the kindness of a pen-friend, I am able to receive the Dr Who Weekly shortly after it is released in England. The first issues have been very entertaining, and pictorially excellent. Your intention to feature a weekly chronology of Dr Who story synopses with appropriate photographs is intelligent and much appreciated.

In all, a very good magazine. I wish it every success.

Dave MacLeod,
Victoria, Australia.



Reader Lincoln from Ashford.

Dear Dr Who Weekly,

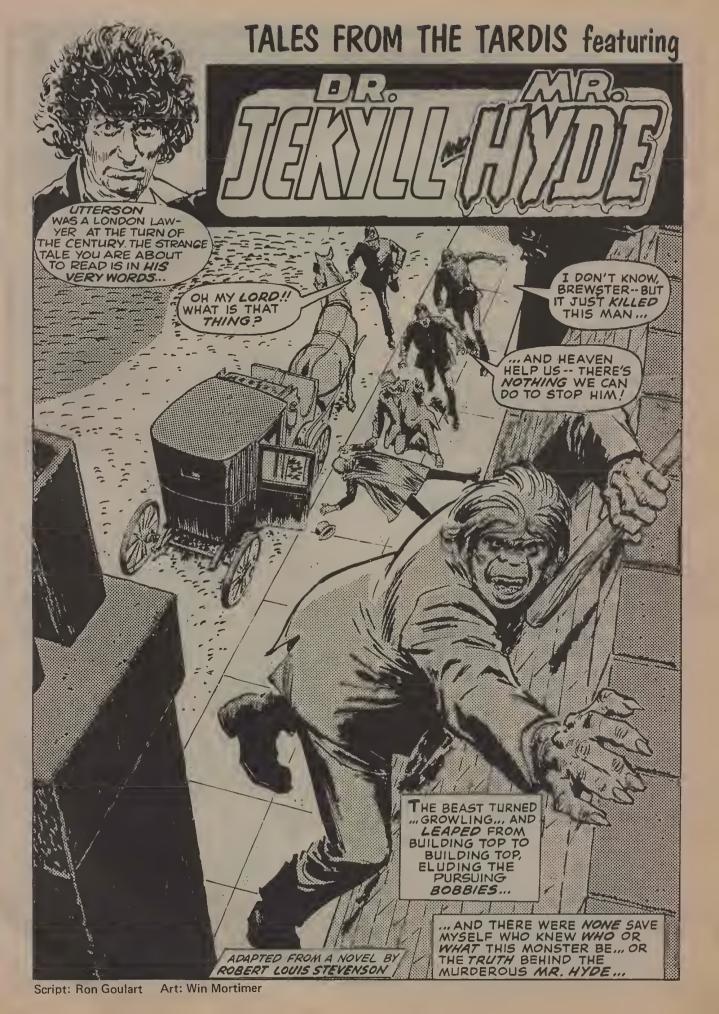
I think its about time a seasoned Marvel comic-buff and long-time Doctor Who fan made his opinions on your new comic venture.

The art by Dave Gibbons is really fantastic! He could be compared with any of Marvel's U.S. artists any day! The script by Mills and Wagner is really good too, they've maintained Doctor's air of eccentricity and his somewhat crazy disposition, perfectly. only thing lacking in this otherwise first-rate effort is the Doc's tv assistant, Romana and his robotic pooch, K-9. I hope in the future you will include these two characters.

All in all then, a great comic, British Marvel has at last earned its spurs!

Tim Rogerson, Didcot.

Who Cares!
Doctor Who Weekly,
Marvel Comics,
Jadwin House,
205-211 Kentish
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London NW5.







THOSE WHO

























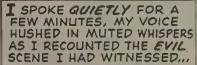


















NEXT WEEK: THE MYSTERY DEEPENS!



THE WO

This six part adventure was first shown on BBC television on February 13th, 1965.

Peep in the heart of the Crater of Needles, where a slave colony work, watched over by the Zarbi and the deadly venom grubs, Barbara is hard at work carrying piles of silicone stalagmites and feeding them into the acid pools. The chemical reaction from this process provides the Animus with a food source with which to increase the size and span of its Web

City which, unless checked, will eventually cover the entire planet.

Hrostar is in Barbara's work party, as are two other Menoptera, Hlynia and her father Prapillus. The latter is a very old Menoptera, wise in the ways of the Zarbi and in the history of Vortis. As they toil under the baleful light of the planet's moons, he explains to Barbara how the terror of

the Animus began . . .

Ian has received something of a similar history lesson from Vrestin. Recognising Ian as being of the same species as Barbara, Vrestin has befriended the lost time traveller and now both of them are lying bruised, but otherwise unhurt, at the bottom of a deep ravine. Unable to pronounce the name Ian, Vrestin explains to



"Heron" how, at one time both the Menoptera and the Zarbi worked together. The Zarbi, by nature a stupid species, used to work the land for their Menoptera rulers before the coming of the Animus. The dark power of the spreading Web exerted a tremendous magnetic force, attracting many new moons to Vortis (including the TARDIS). This force changed the Zarbi into violent creatures, determined to destroy their rulers with the use of their deadly weapons - the venom grubs! When this force was turned against the Menoptera, the only course of action open to them was flight. Now the main bulk of the Menopteran race is massed on one of Vortis's moons awaiting the signal to attack. They must act quickly for if the Web expands much further it will rob the Menoptera of their ability to fly.

Listening to the conclusion of this lecture in silence, lan suddenly becomes aware that the two of them are not alone. On all sides they are being surrounded by shuffling caterpillar-like creatures. In horror Vrestin realises that they are shrunken vestiges of insects that might once have been Menoptera themselves!

Leading the chattering brood is Hetra who proclaims himself to be leader of the Optera kind. They make lan and Vrestin their prisoners but the former begins trying to persuade the creatures to join in the fight against the encroaching Web, for the future of all Vortis. Although repelled by the sight of the grubs, Vrestin displays his colourful wings and tells the Optera of their true heritage as creatures of light, not of darkness. The freedom of the skies should be theirs, not the damnation of an underground



Above: The Doctor (William Hartnell) and Ian (William Russell) face the Zarbi and their deadly weapon — the venom grub! Left: A Menoptera with the Zarbi.

existence. The Optera listen attentively.

Inside the Web City the Doctor and Vicki have been learning things for themselves. Removing the Astral Map from the TARDIS the Doctor has located, and even intercepted messages from, the Menoptera invasion force now approaching landfall on the Sayo Plateau. The Doctor wisely keeps this information from the Animus voice while he tinkers with various small experiments to try and break the power of the Web. Eventually the Animus loses patience with the Doctor and threatens his young companion. Reluctantly, the old man has to tell what he knows. As instructions go out to the Zarbi hordes, the Doctor frantically tries one more experiment to neutralise the magnetic power of the Animus. Alerted to the time traveller's

interference, and with more pressing needs on its mind now, the Animus orders gold necklets to be placed on the shoulders of Vicki and the Doctor. As the metal touches their bodies, they instantly fall into deep hypnotic trances, while arrangements are made to received the coming invaders.

Hrostar is also aware of the coming invasion and enlists the aid of the slaves, including Barbaram Hlynia and Prapillus. With most of the venom grubs now flanking the Plateau, the slave rebellion is quickly able to overcome the token Zarbi sentries. But, as they draw near to the Plateau a terrible sight greets them. Menoptera soldiers are being shot out of the sky by the blanket firing of the venom grubs who have the landing site cordoned by a ring of blazing death.

A Menoptera captain swoops down beside Barbara, attracting the attention of the Zarbi who instantly close in on the group. At the last moment a hidden door in the rock swings momentarily open and Barbara, Hrostar, Prapillus, Hlynia and Captain Hilio duck gratefully inside. They are now safe, but the invasion itself is a failure . . .

As news of the successful repulsion echoes around the Web City, little attention is given to the Doctor and Vicki. Vicki delicately removes her necklet and also the Doctor's. Recovering, the Doctor is delighted to see that his experiment to neutralise the Web's power partially worked with her necklet. Furthermore when the same necklet is slipped over the exoshell of a nearby Zarbi, the giant ant immediately becomes obedient to the two humanoids. Using his ring, the Doctor compels the Zarbi to lead them out of the Web.

Somewhere, beneath their feet, the





Above: Barbara (Jacqueline Hill) with the Menoptera, strange butterfly creatures who lived on Vortis until the uprising of the Zarbi. Below: The Zarbi with a deadly venom grub.





industrious Optera are digging their way upwards towards the centre of the city, the idea being to strike at the Animus from below. With them are Vrestin and Ian. Yet, the higher they progress the more Ian wonders at the type of creature they will confront when they arrive.

By pure chance the Doctor and Vicki join up with Barbara's party in their hidden santuary. Prapillus recognises the building as an old Menoptera Temple of Light. Standing amid the revered relics of his ancestors the old Menoptera reflects on the plight of his people. All their lives the Menoptera dealt with problems by flying above them. Their access to the skies had given them a false sense of security when the Animus came they had no provision to oppose it, and their empire was taken swiftly from them. Stepping forward, Hilio displays the secret weapon that had been devised with the aim of killing the Animus - a cell destructor. Examining the stubby gun the Doctor concludes that the device could work - but only at short range. To use it, Vicki and the Doctor must penetrate the very centre of the Web City and fire it into the heart of whatever comprises the Animus itself.

By stealth, the Doctor and Vicki return to the TARDIS only to find their absence has been noticed. As Zarbi swarm around them, Vicki hides the gun in the Astral Map. Moments later she learns to her dismay, that they are being taken to the Web centre itself — unarmed.

Led by the controlled Zarbi, Barbara and the Menoptera fighters attack the entrance to the city.

Discovering a subterranean chimney

lan, Vrestin and the Optera start their arduous climb towards the centre of the Web.

On the threshold of the centre the Zarbi escort turns back, unwilling, or afraid to go further. As a gateway slams down behind them the Doctor and Vicki see why. Before them, revolving on a huge dias, sits the bloated shape of a giant, vaguely spider-shaped, bladder, Pulsating with a fierce light, the creature tells the pair that it intends to absorb them into itself. Despite their combined willpower Vicki and Doctor are unable to resist the pull exerted by the hungry Animus and falteringly they begin walking the towards waiting parasite . . .

THE AWAITED NEW DAWN

Barbara's team takes advantage of the attention being given to the absorption of the Doctor, to reach the Zarbi control chamber where the TARDIS is being held. They try to contact the invasion survivors using the Astral Map while Barbara finds the concealed destructor.

Hurrying to the Centre, Barbara feels more and more that she is being watched. It is as though the alien expects her!

It is. With Barbara's knowledge added to its thought processes, the Animus will be able to extend itself to the Solar System and the rich food sources of Earth. Its light radiates ever more brilliantly and Barbara too feels the compulsion to move towards the shimmering monster.

It is the distraction brought by lan and Vrestin, as they break their way

through the floor, that enables Barbara to concentrate once more. Taking careful aim, she presses the trigger on the destructor. For a moment nothing happens. Gradually, though, the hideous light begins to dim, the voice of the Animus slurs, and the awesome power fades.

Minutes later the creature is dead, and with it the Web City starts to rot and fade. Vortis is saved and once again a home for the Menoptera folk. And not just for the Menoptera, counsels the Doctor. Both the Zarbi and the brave Optera must be given a home in the peace to come, with justice and fairness to all.

Sadly, Vrestin says farewell to his friend "Heron", and as the outlines of the TARDIS melt away, Prpaillus signals to the Menoptera forces to return, and then goes outside to greet the long awaited new dawn.

Comment

With Menoptera, Optera, venom grubs and Zarbi costumes all required for this one serial, the BBC Costume and Visual Effects Departments were kept very busy indeed! And, as a measure of the complexities raised by this story, a BBC series "Junior Points of View" once revealed that it took an actor no less than twenty minutes to be fitted into a Zarbi costume. To date, "The Web Planet" has been the only serial never to feature any other humanoid creatures other than the four time travellers.

Next week, the TARDIS returns to Earth, in another historical adventure. This time, we witness the harsh environment of the 12th Century, the time of the Crusades. Join us next week, as the Doctor meets "The Lionheart."

THE WEB PLANET Credits

The Doctor (William Hartnell); Ian Chesterton (William Russell); Barbara Wright (Jacqueline Hill); Vicki (Maureen O'Brien); Vrestin (Roslyn De Winter); Hlynia (Jocelyn Birdsall); Captain Hilio (Martin Jarvis), Voice of the Animus (Catherine Fleming); Written by Bill Strutton; Directed by Richard Martin,

Produced by Verity Lambert.

Next Week: THE LION HEART



Entry Number Seventeen:~ PETER PURVES

BORN: February 1939

ROLE: Space pilot Steven Taylor

YEARS: 1965 to 1966

MAJOR TELEVISION APPEARANCES: Z Cars; Blue Peter (as a long standing regular host); Blue Peter Special Assignment; Star Turn Challenge; Stop Watch.

MAJOR STAGE APPEARANCE: Circus Variety at

the London Palladium.

SPECIAL MENTION: Peter Purves, once host of BBC's perennial Blue Peter series, first encountered the Dr Who production staff in an audition to play the role of a Menoptera in the serial "The Web Planet".

In the end all the places were quickly filled and Peter Purves was dropped. Nevertheless his face was remembered by the producer and a couple of months later Peter found himself back in the Dr Who office, this time trying for the part of a hillbilly American in episode three of "The Chase".

This time he was more successful. So much so, that he was asked to return as a new regular character in the series who would first appear in the final episode of "The Chase. Thus Steven Taylor, stranded astronaut on the planet of the Mechanoids, was born.

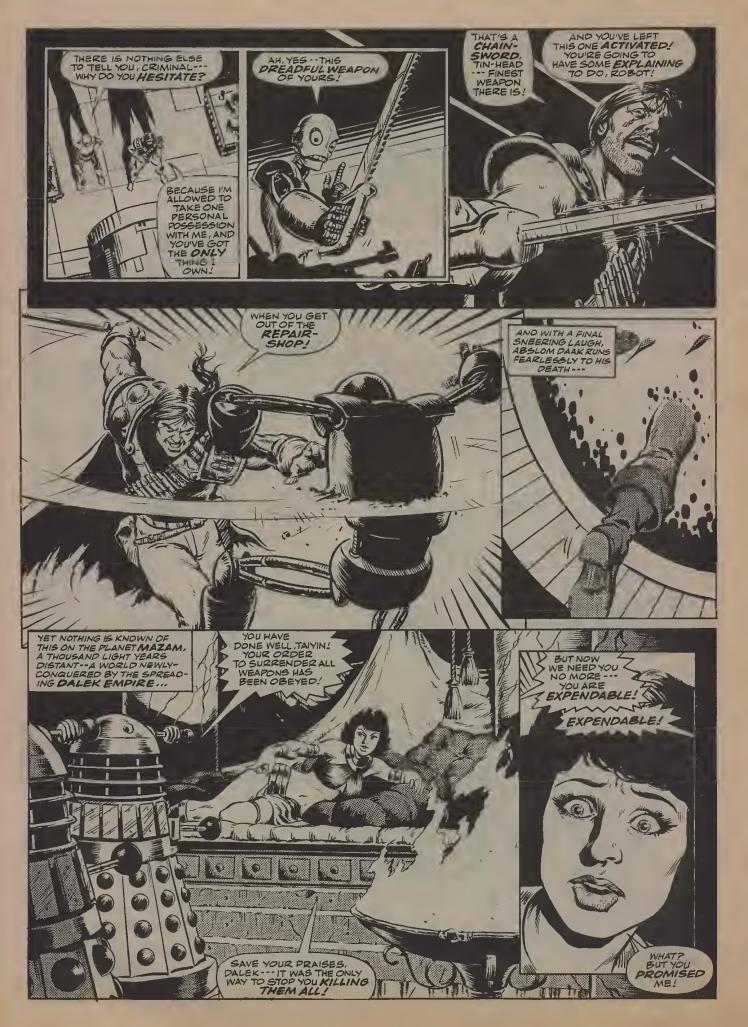
















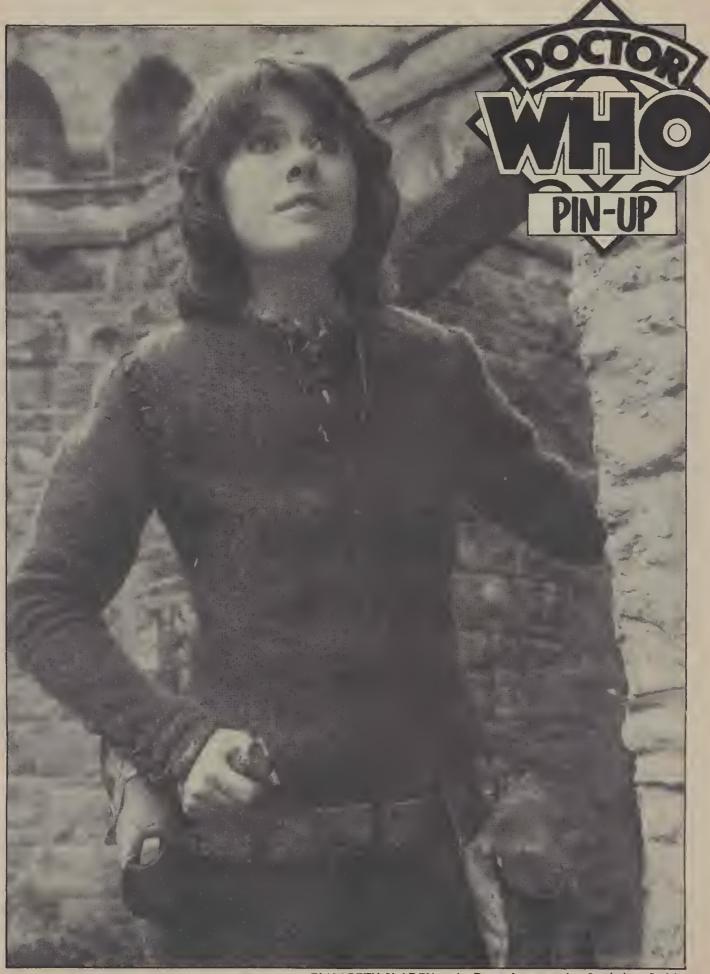






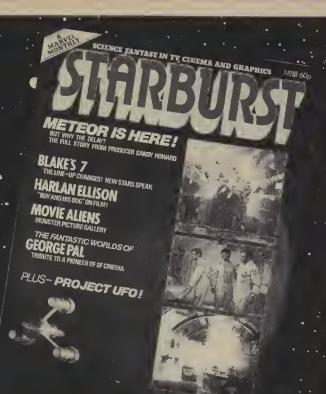






ELISABETH SLADEN as the Doctor's companion Sarah-Jane Smith.





THE MIGHTY: MARVEL REVOLUTION MOVES ON!





EACH AND EVERY MONTH!